

that they know that their contributions and sacrifices are as highly valued as those of our military personnel.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would authorize the Department of State to provide compensation for the families of fallen Foreign Service employees that is comparable to what is provided to the families of fallen military personnel.

Under current law, the surviving family members of an American Foreign Service employee are entitled to one year's salary and the proceeds of their federal life insurance benefit. In contrast, the family of a fallen member of the military is entitled to an enhanced life insurance and death gratuity that was authorized by the United States Congress in 2005. This is a disparity that can no longer be overlooked.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would ensure that the families of Foreign Service employees receive, at a minimum, a death gratuity equal of \$100,000, matching the benefit provided to military personnel. An enhanced life insurance benefit of at least \$400,000 for Foreign Service employees serving at a recognized danger pay post also matches the benefit available to military personnel participating in combat operations or stationed in combat zones. Foreign Service employees with a higher yearly salary or life insurance payout will maintain their benefits as they exist under current law.

This legislation also recognizes our moral obligation to the families of the twelve Americans killed in the August 1998 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the surviving family members of that incident have endured significant and continuing financial and personal hardships that serve as a poignant example of the burdens faced by such survivors. These families have been unable to seek damages through the courts as other families in similar situations have because such actions are limited to state-sponsored acts of terror.

Similar legislation has passed the House of Representatives in previous Congressional sessions, but failed to clear the hurdle of the United States Senate. Then-Congressman ROY BLUNT (R-MO) continually led this effort over the years, and I am honored to carry the torch during the 112th Congress.

As we approach the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we need to recognize the individuals who died at the hand of a terrorist attack three years before 9/11, and uphold our foremost responsibility to our courageous and dedicated Foreign Service employees and their families.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR
CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN
PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
MICHAEL JOSEPH STRANGE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Michael Joseph Strange who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Strange was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the

security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Strange was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and other campaign and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Strange is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Strange an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Strange's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
EVERETT M. WOODEL, JR. FOR
HIS SERVICE AS DISTRICT DI-
RECTOR OF OHIO'S FIFTH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. My District Director, Everett M. Woodel, Jr. of Port Clinton, Ohio left after twelve years of service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

Everett Woodel began his service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District as a District Representative to the late Congressman Paul E. Gillmor. During his tenure with the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett also filled the role as the Deputy Communications Director. Following the vacancy left by the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett's professionalism and dedication to the constituents and issues of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District made him an outstanding pick to serve as the Deputy District Director. In 2010, when my former District Director retired, Everett handily took over the position as District Director.

A veteran of the United States Army, Everett has served our country with pride and compassion. As a public servant, I have found Everett to be dedicated to the citizens of Northwest Ohio, not only managing the day to day functions of my district offices, but also demonstrating that the well-being of the constituents of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is paramount in making this the hallmark of his career with the United States House of Representatives. Everett will continue his commitment to public service as he has accepted a position with the State of Ohio's Industrial Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Everett M. Woodel, Jr. for his roles in Ohio's Fifth District Offices. Our communities have undoubtedly benefited from his years of faithful service. We wish Everett M. Woodel, Jr. all of the best upon his departure as District Director of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at this Valor Commitment Dedication to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. This Remembrance Service is a sign that we are moving forward as a nation, and that while we may have bent on 9/11, we shall never be broken.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR JON THOMAS
TUMILSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jon Thomas Tumilson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Tumilson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Tumilson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including

two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Tumilson is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Tumilson an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Tumilson's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this anniversary is first, last and always a day of remembrance. The shock and horror of that day has receded. But all of us remember where we were on that morning when passenger jets became missiles, striking the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The mountains of debris left when they collapsed are gone. The Pentagon has long since been restored. The field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania is a burial ground still, where contemplation by those who return is reverent and sorrowful. Two Utahns were aboard one of the hijacked planes that struck the first tower; another Utahn died at his job in the Pentagon when a third jet crashed into it.

The passing days brought much heartache. Not all Americans lost family members during the terrorist attacks, yet it felt as though we did. In the aftermath, many of us lit candles, mailed donations, flew our flag, and hugged our children more tightly at night as we tucked them into bed. The heroes of 9/11—members of the New York and Port Authority police departments and the New York City firefighters—quickly replaced the frightening images of the hijackers. From across this country, ordinary people put comfortable lives on hold in order to join the rescue and recovery effort. Later on, thousands of men and women from all walks of life stepped forward, donned our country's uniform and took the fight to those who plotted against America. Terrorists tried to break America apart; instead, their actions brought Americans together.

The September 11th attacks triggered American resilience. We worked hard to return to normal—a new kind of normal. As a Nation, we have made ourselves safer and more vigilant—at airports, on trains, on subways, at ports and in cyberspace. We strengthened intelligence and information sharing, we traced the money and shut down terrorist bank accounts, and we foiled al Qaeda. The U.S. and its allies have hunted down, captured or killed over 600 U.S. targets, including the master-

minds of 9/11—Khalid Sheikh Muhammad and Osama bin Laden.

Ultimately, it is America's courage and America's values that defeated the terrorists. As British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an address to Congress, "We are so much more powerful in all conventional ways than the terrorists. In the end, it is not our power alone that will defeat this evil. Our ultimate weapon is not our guns, but our beliefs." This anniversary is but one marker along the way to building on the dream that is our democratic Nation—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S HARVEST LUNCHEON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, to acknowledge and honor the 50th Anniversary of Modesto Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Luncheon.

The first luncheon dates back to 1956 when a Modesto Junior College Scholarship was generated from a lunch honoring the richness of Stanislaus County's agriculture.

In 1961, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce officially became the sponsor of the Harvest Luncheon;

In 1961, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was \$142,031,000;

The luncheon was originally established to showcase local growers and producers and to demonstrate the impact of agriculture in Stanislaus County;

In 1980, Bill Lyons, Sr. offered to donate the beef and "charge" for the luncheon to increase the scholarship dollars for Modesto Jr. College students with agricultural related majors;

In 1996, the Harvest Luncheon Scholarship was renamed to honor two giants in Stanislaus County agriculture, Henry Voss, former Secretary and Claire Berryhill, past Director, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture;

In 2002, Del Monte Foods became a private partnership leader and has since generously donated \$10,000 annually to the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Voss/Berryhill Modesto Junior College Ag Scholarship Program, significantly increasing the amount of scholarship dollars awarded;

With the exception of 1961 and 1963 through 1965, 456 students have been awarded in excess of \$300,000 in scholarships in the past 50 years;

In 2011, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was \$2,572,434,000;

The luncheon is made possible through the generous donations of agribusiness and agricultural producers and processors from throughout Stanislaus County.

The Harvest Lunch/Ag Aware Committee consists of 33 dedicated individuals plus innumerable volunteers who plan for six months and serve in excess of 800 attendees in fifteen minutes.

The tradition of giving thanks for Stanislaus County's bountiful harvest of over 350 agricultural commodities continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. CARDOZA and me in honoring Modesto Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of sponsoring the Harvest Luncheon so scholarships for agriculture related majors can continue to be awarded. The luncheon is a valuable asset to the community and should be celebrated.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR AARON CARSON VAUGHN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Aaron Carson Vaughn who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Petty Officer Vaughn was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Vaughn was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Vaughn is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Vaughn an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Vaughn's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now at the Carrollton Remembrance Service to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us